

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4 and 6-20 stand rejected to by the Examiner. Claim 5 is objected to. The drawings are accepted. The Examiner's objections and rejections are addressed below in substantially the same order as in the office action.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10,11,13-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fredd '599. The Examiner contends that Fredd '599 (Fig. 2) discloses a reservoir completion assembly for selective production of production fluid from a lower completion section formed of tubing string and a packer device for securing the lower completion section within the wellbore section of a wellbore.

Fredd '599 teaches a method and apparatus for **annulus** flow systems in which a safety valve controls flow adjacent a packer. (Abstract). The specification of the '599 Patent clearly describes valve systems that are specifically designed to control the flow of production fluid though the casing-tubing annulus. See Col. 1, Ins. 33-36; Col. 6, Ins. 23-27; Col. 7, Ins. 34-37. Fredd '599 does not teach or suggest any valve system wherein a valve arrangement is used to control the flow of production fluid into a tubing string.

With respect to independent claims 1, 8 and 15, Fredd '599 does not teach or suggest using a tubing bore to convey fluid from a well annulus to the surface. Rather, Fredd '599 only teaches a valve system that controls fluid flow along the annulus. Because Fredd '599 does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of the independent claims, Applicant submits that the independent claims are in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-20 depend from a claim believed to be in condition for allowance and are allowable on at least those grounds.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103

Claims 4, 9, 12 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fredd '599 in view of Scarsdale. To Applicant's reading, Scarsdale teaches only a dual submersible pumping system that permits the production and/or injection of fluids from or into separate zones within a narrowly confined wellbore without commingling of fluids. Scarsdale does not teach a valve system used in conjunction with a tubing flowing production fluid to the surface. Thus, Applicant submits that the Fredd '599 even in combination with Scarsdale does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of the independent claims or of dependent claims 4, 9, 12 and 20.

NEW CLAIMS


Applicant has added new claims 21-26. These new claims are believed to be allowable over the cited art, because the cited art does not teach or suggest a first and second valve being opened to allow flow of production fluid into a tubing.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the application is in a condition for allowance. No fee is believed due for this paper. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **02-0429 (284-37042-US)**.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I do hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile, to the Commissioner for Patents, Examiner, **Daniel P. Stephenson**, facsimile no. (571) 273-8300, on this June 7, 2006.


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